

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Valentine (U.S. Patent No. 4,819,591). The Examiner also rejected claims 3-18 as being unpatentable over Valentine in view of Caya et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,645,025). Claims 19-20 were withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention/species.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the interview granted to Applicants' representative on March 23, 2005. The amendments and remarks made herein are consistent with the discussion during the interview. Applicants have canceled claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, and 20 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, amended claims 1, 7, and 13, and have submitted new claims 21-27 for consideration. Claims 21, 24, and 27 are independent.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Valentine (U.S. Patent No. 4,819,591). As reflected by the Interview Summary, the Examiner agreed that Valentine "could not be applied to reject claim 2," as Valentine does not disclose a cylinder head having all the recited limitations, including, for example, a top deck that is "machined in a same plane as the top surface of the at least one rocker shaft pedestal." Applicants have incorporated this limitation of claim 2 into claim 1. Additionally, Applicants have incorporated similar subject matter from claim 14 into independent claim 13. Accordingly, Valentine fails to disclose at least this limitation of claims 1 and 13.

In the Interview Summary, the Examiner noted that Zielke (U.S. Patent No. 6,484,683) may teach the subject matter of claim 2. Applicant's respectfully disagree. In figures 6 and 8 of Zielke, the top surface of the rocker shaft pedestals can clearly be

seen as being in a different plane than the top deck of the cylinder head. Therefore, like Valentine, Zielke fails to disclose at least a “top deck . . . machined in a same plane as the top surface of the at least one rocker shaft pedestal,” as recited in claims 1 and 13.

Applicants also traverse the rejection of claims 3-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Valentine in view of Caya et al. Valentine fails to disclose a “top deck . . . machined in a same plane as the top surface of the at least one rocker shaft pedestal,” as recited in claims 1 and 13. The Examiner relies on Caya et al. only for a teaching of “spacing steps adapted for correctly spacing adjacent rocker arms.” (Office Action, page 3) Caya et al. does nothing to cure the deficiencies of Valentine. Claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 15, 16, and 18 are dependent on claims 1 and 13 respectively and are, thus, allowable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 13 are allowable.

Regarding new claims 21-26, neither Valentine nor Caya et al. disclose every claim element. For example, both Valentine and Caya et al. fail to disclose a cylinder head including, for example, “opposed outer side walls having substantially flat portions adapted to abut side surfaces of adjacent rocker arms,” as recited in new independent claims 21 and 24. Valentine fails to disclose any shoulder or “step” associated with the rocker shaft pedestal. While Caya et al. do show some type of shoulder or “step,” the outer side walls of the pedestal are not disclosed as being adapted to abut side surfaces of adjacent rocker arms. Therefore, neither Valentine nor Caya et al. disclose “opposed outer side walls having substantially flat portions adapted to abut side surfaces of adjacent rocker arms,” as recited in new claims 21 and 24.

Regarding new independent claim 27, neither Valentine nor Caya et al. disclose every claim element. For example, both Valentine and Caya et al. fail to disclose a

cylinder head having, *inter alia*, "a top deck and at least one integrally cast rocker shaft pedestal . . . wherein the top surface of the pedestal is machined in the same plane as the top deck," as recited in claim 27. (Emphasis added)

In view of the above, Applicants submit that new independent claims 21, 24, and 27 and dependent claims 22, 23, 25, and 26 are allowable over the prior art.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, the Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

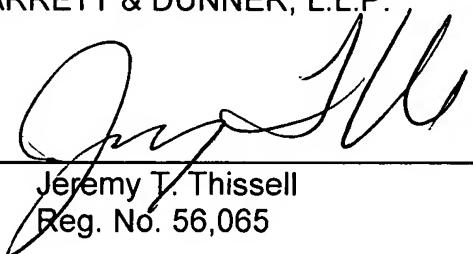
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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